



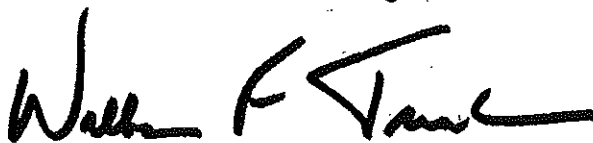
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
UNDER SECRETARY FOR MEMORIAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON DC 20420

JAN 16 2009

Director, Memorial Service Network I, Philadelphia, PA  
Director, Memorial Service Network II, Atlanta, GA  
Director, Memorial Service Network III, Denver, CO  
Director, Memorial Service Network IV, Indianapolis, IN  
Director, Memorial Service Network V, Oakland, CA  
Director, NCA Training Center, St. Louis, MO.

Subject: Lithochrome-free Marble Headstones, Markers and Niche Covers

1. Effective immediately NCA has adopted a 'no lithochrome' policy for upright marble headstones and marble columbarium niche covers at all new cemeteries and at newly constructed columbaria with marble niche covers in existing national cemeteries. This initiative will enhance the appearance of national cemeteries by ensuring the headstones and markers have a consistent appearance, regardless of age.
2. This policy also applies to new burial sections in existing cemeteries when it does not detract from the overall appearance of the cemetery. Each new section must be carefully evaluated at the MSN level to determine if it is appropriate to use lithochrome-free marble headstones or markers.
3. Cemetery Directors have the option - at their discretion - to place lithochrome-free new or replacement marble headstones, markers and niche covers in existing sections where older stones may have had lithochrome and it is faded.
4. When ordering a lithochrome-free marble headstone, marker or niche cover for placement in existing sections, cemetery staff should enter the words "No lithochrome" in the "Special Remarks" field in BOSS or AMAS. The special remark will print at the bottom of the final inscription so that the contractor is aware of the special requirement.
5. Please ensure that each of your cemetery directors have been provided a copy of this memorandum including the attachment.

AS 9  
3/9 2009  


William F. Tuerk  
Under Secretary  
for Memorial Affairs